

Agenda

Item #1

Request for Investigation of Re-Election Campaign of Gov. Paul LePage



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE

To: Commissioners

From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Date: October 9, 2014

Re: Request by Maine Democratic Party to Investigate the Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage

This memo summarizes a request by the Maine Democratic Party (MDP) to investigate the re-election campaign of Gov. Paul LePage.

Allegations by MDP

In an October 7, 2014 letter from the party's executive director, the MDP alleges that Governor Paul LePage and his staff have used state-owned vehicles and equipment (email system, phones, and computers) and employees in the Office of the Governor to promote the Governor's re-election. The MDP's request focuses on the following activities:

- The MDP asserts that Governor LePage and the communications director for his campaign, Alex Willette, have traveled to campaign events in a state-owned or leased vehicle and that such use constitutes a contribution to the campaign. The MDP included links to three videos showing Gov. LePage and Mr. Willette entering or exiting the Governor's vehicle on September 12, 24, and 26, 2014. Mr. Willette is not on the staff of the Governor's Office. The MDP argues that the campaign should reimburse the State of Maine for the transportation, and that the reimbursement should be listed as an expenditure in campaign finance reports.
- The general number of the Office of the Governor (287-3531) was included in the registration form for the Governor's campaign from 2011 to March 2014.

(Different versions of the registration form on file in the Commission's e-filing system are attached.) The fax number of the office was also used in the registration form. In a March 2014 news article, the Governor's principal campaign consultant made statements that the re-election campaign was actively fundraising and organizing volunteers, even though it had not opened a campaign office. The MDP relies on these circumstances to request an investigation whether the Governor directed state employees to raise funds or organize volunteers.

- In support of its contention that state equipment was used for campaign purposes, the MDP also relies on an October 1, 2014 press release and letter criticizing U.S. Representative Michael Michaud concerning his position on federal legislation relating to natural gas permitting. The MDP asserts that the emailed press release can have no other reasonable purpose than to advocate for the defeat of Rep. Michaud.

Commission's Jurisdiction to Consider Allegations of Misuse

Maine state law contains restrictions against the use of executive branch employees and computers to expressly advocate for or against the election of a candidate and for political fundraising. Maine state law also forbids the use of state vehicles for personal purposes.

These laws are important safeguards to ensure that state-owned equipment is used for public purposes only. Nevertheless, the Commission staff recommends adhering to the Commission's mandate as the state's campaign finance agency, and not taking any action on the MDP's allegations that state property or equipment was misused. If the MDP believes that state resources were used for improper purposes, it is free to take up those issues with the Maine Attorney General or other appropriate department within Maine state government.

Relevant Campaign Finance Law

The term contribution is defined in Maine campaign finance law as a “gift ... of money or *anything of value* made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office” (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1012(2)(A)(1)) (emphasis added) Thus, a good or service (non-monetary) that is donated to a campaign may constitute a contribution. The Commission’s Rules define an in-kind contribution to mean “the provision of goods or services without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and customary charge.” (Chapter 1, Section 6(4))

Certain goods or services are excluded from the statutory definition of contribution. For example, “the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the provider” is excluded from the definition of contribution. (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1012(2)(B)(9))

The term “anything of value” is ambiguous, and has been challenging to apply in some factual circumstances. The Commission staff has assumed that some travel expenses donated to a campaign were intended by the Maine Legislature to count as a contribution, because certain travel expenses have been specifically excluded in statute. Under 21-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1012(2)(B)(4) & (4-A)), travel expenses paid for by the candidate (without limitation) are excluded from the definition of contribution, and up to \$350 in travel expenses paid by a volunteer are excluded.

Thank you for your consideration of this memo.

Wayne, Jonathan

From: Mary-Erin Casale <mecasale@mainedems.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Wayne, Jonathan
Cc: Lavin, Paul; Ben Grant; Kate Knox
Subject: MDP Request for Ethics Investigation
Attachments: MDP Ethics Complaint LePage Campaign 10.7.14.pdf

Mr. Wayne -

Please find attached a request for an ethics investigation into the Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage. I respectfully request that the Commission find tthe Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage have violated state law by misusing state resources and engaging in prohibited political activity. After having made such a finding, I respectfully urge the Commission to assess the maximum penalty available under Maine law and to refer their findings, where appropriate, to the Office of the Attorney General.

In case the links are not operational in the attached document, here they are:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

[Press Herald Story](#)

[Email from the Office of Governor LePage](#)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please feel free to call or email me with any further questions.

Best,
Mary Erin

Mary Erin Casale
Executive Director
Maine Democratic Party
207.415.4965
www.mainedems.org

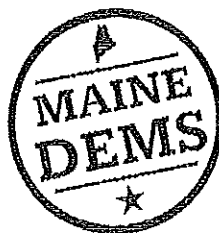
Benjamin K. Grant, Chairman

Pam Fenrich, Vice Chair

Heidi Brooks, Secretary

Betty Johnson, Treasurer

Roy Godat, Assistant Treasurer



Maine Democratic Party

P.O. Box 5258

Augusta, ME 04332-5258

P 207.622.6233

www.mainedems.org

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director
Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

October 7, 2014

Dear Jonathan,

On behalf of the Maine Democratic Party, I wish to file a formal complaint against the Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage for unreported campaign contributions and misuse of state resources.

I respectfully request that the Commission find that the Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage have violated state law by misusing state resources and engaging in prohibited political activity. After having made such a finding, I respectfully urge the Commission to assess the maximum penalty available under Maine law and to refer their findings, where appropriate, to the Office of the Attorney General.

1. The Use of a State Owned Vehicle By the Campaign is Misuse and at the Very Least Should Be Reported as a Contribution to the Campaign.

In the following three videos, Alex Willette, an employee of the Committee, is clearly seen entering or exiting a state leased vehicle accompanying Governor LePage. The use of a vehicle paid for by the State of Maine should be considered a "contribution" under Maine Statutes and as such, should be reported on the campaign finance reports for the Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage.

Under Maine law, a contribution is defined in part as anything of value made for the purpose of the election of any person to any state office. 21-A M.R.S.A §1012(2)(A)(1). The use of a state-owned car to transport Governor LePage and Mr. Willette for campaign purposes is a contribution to the campaign. It has value, and as such, needs to be publicly reported.

Further, state officials are prohibited from misusing a state owned motor vehicle and are liable for the actual costs of such misuse. 5 M.R.S.A. §7. The presence of Mr. Willette, an employee of the campaign, indicates that the state owned vehicle is being used for non-state purposes – and that should be per se evidence of misuse.

Video 1 – This event occurred on September 12, 2014. Governor LePage was hosting an official state press conference announcing the Maine branded NASCAR vehicle.

Video 2 – The event occurred on September 26, 2014. Governor LePage was hosting a campaign event in Scarborough. Mr. Willette is seen exiting the vehicle.

Video 3 – The event occurred on September 24, 2014. Governor LePage attended a breakfast forum sponsored by the Bangor Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee to Re-elect Governor Paul LePage should not be permitted to use state owned vehicles as campaign transportation. If doing so, a reimbursement to the State should be made and that reimbursement should be shown on campaign finance reports.

2. Improper and Unreported Use of State Resources.

Under 5 M.R.S. §7056-A (3), "An officer or employee in the classified service or an employee from the executive branch in the unclassified service of this State may not engage in political activity: A. When the employee is on duty; [1997, c. 498, §6 (NEW).] B. In state-owned or leased work space occupied in the discharge of official duties or by using the facilities or services of the State; or [1997, c. 498, §6 (NEW).]"

In a story posted in the Portland Press Herald on March 2, 2014, it is clearly stated that Governor LePage was using the official number at the State House as a contact for his re-election campaign.

"LePage's campaign doesn't have an office yet. The number for the campaign, according to campaign finance reports, is 287-3531, which rings at the State House.

Brent Littlefield, LePage's senior campaign adviser, said the governor is more focused on governing than running for reelection at the moment, but the campaign machine is still actively fundraising and organizing volunteers."

If the campaign was actively fundraising and organizing volunteers, were those activities taking place with state employees? Were fundraising questions being fielded? Were donations being solicited? We respectfully request the Commission to look further into this issue.

The latest example of misuse of state resources was on October 1, 2014. In a blast email using the Maine.gov website, server and email list, the Office of the Governor issued a statement that attacked Congressman Mike Michaud in regards to energy prices. The language of this email is a thinly veiled campaign missive issued from the State and a highly inappropriate use of resources. A few examples of the language included: "Congressman Michaud has chosen to stand with out-of-state liberal politicians and activists..." and "Rather than following what Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) or a Massachusetts governor thinks about natural gas permitting..." The wording of the email referenced above can have no other purpose than to advocate for the defeat of Congressman Michaud.

The full text of the mail can be found here:

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEGOV/bulletins/d2f6cb>

Maine election law expressly provides that a person who misuses a state government computer system "commits a Class C crime." Further, the statute outlines that "a person is guilty of misuse of a state government computer system if that person knowingly uses a computer system operated by a state department or agency, the Judicial Department or the Legislature" to "to prepare materials with the intent to expressly advocate, to those eligible to vote, for the election or defeat of any candidate for a federal office, a constitutional office or elective municipal, county or state office, including leadership positions in the State Senate and the State House of Representatives;" 21-A M.R.S.A. §32(3).

These three examples present a troubling pattern of Governor LePage and his staff using state resources and tools to engage in prohibited political activity. The misuse of these resources combined with the lack of transparency and public disclosure should be cause for great concern.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Best,

Mary Brin Casale
Executive Director

LePage takes advantage of bully pulpit in governor's race

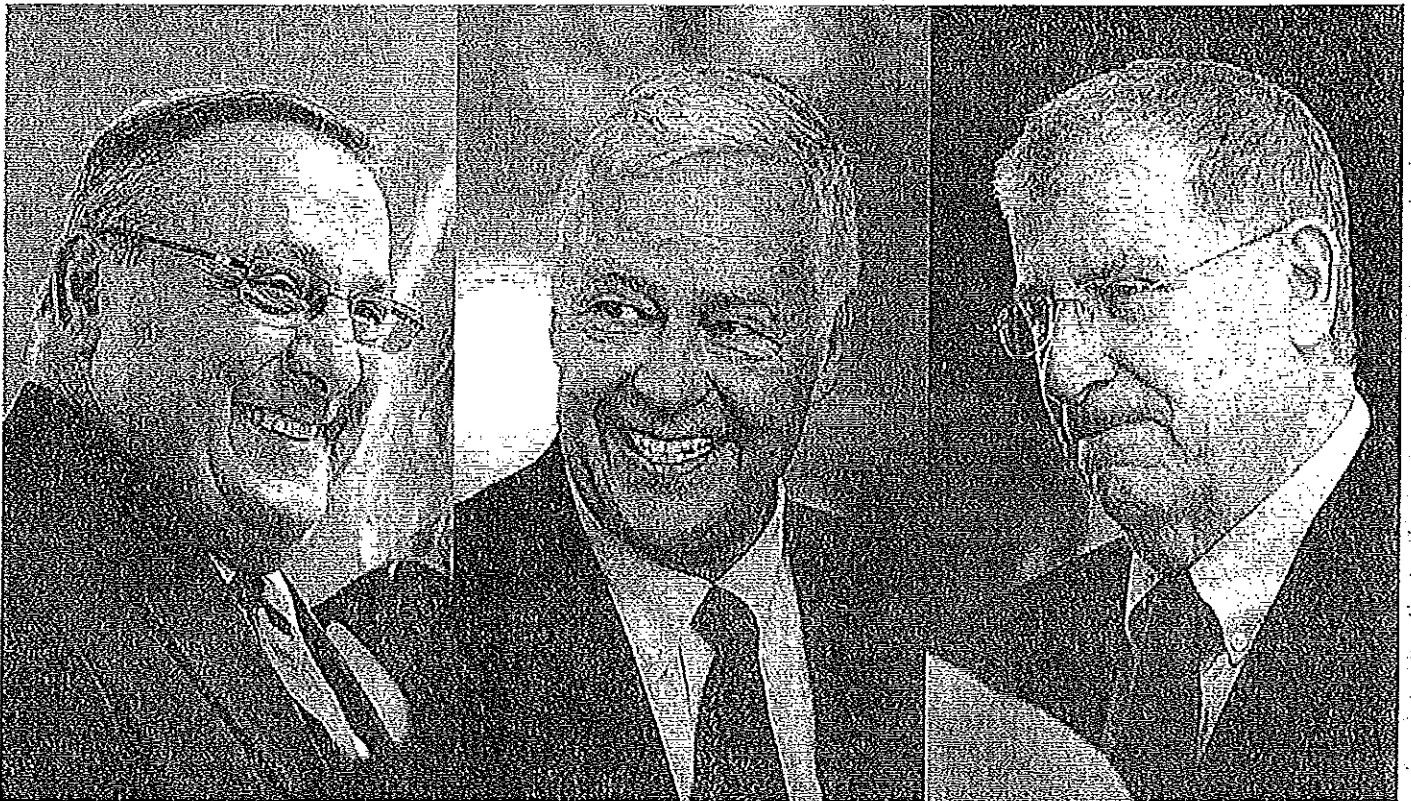
pressherald.com/2014/03/02/lepage_takes_advantage_of_bully_pulpit_in_governors_race/

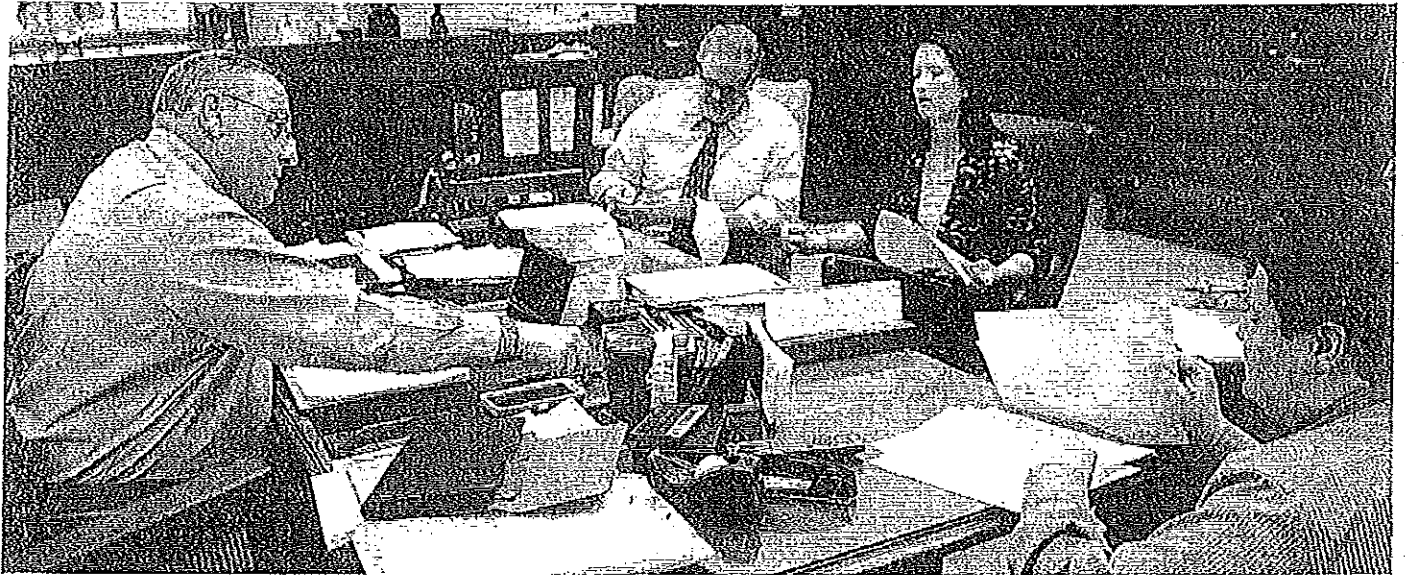
By Eric Russell Staff Writer erussell@pressherald.com | @PPHEricRussell | 207-791-6344

Incumbent Paul LePage has been the most aggressive campaigner in this year's three-way race for governor and he hasn't even hit the campaign trail.

LePage has controlled the message with a steady stream of statements – not from his campaign office, which doesn't exist yet, but from his State House office. One message sent multiple times to the media had this headline: "Maine Agencies Cannibalized by Welfare Spending."

Additional Photos

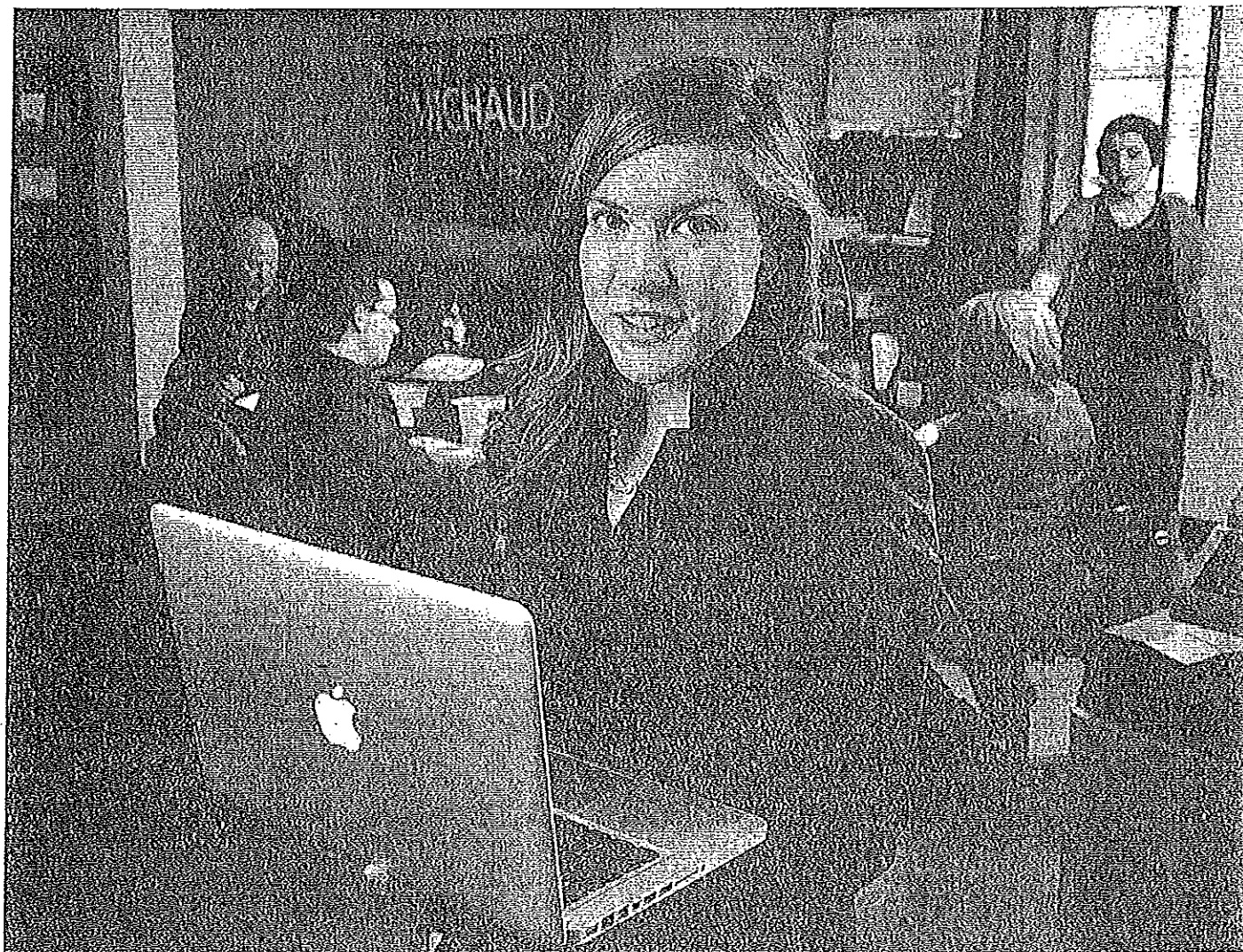




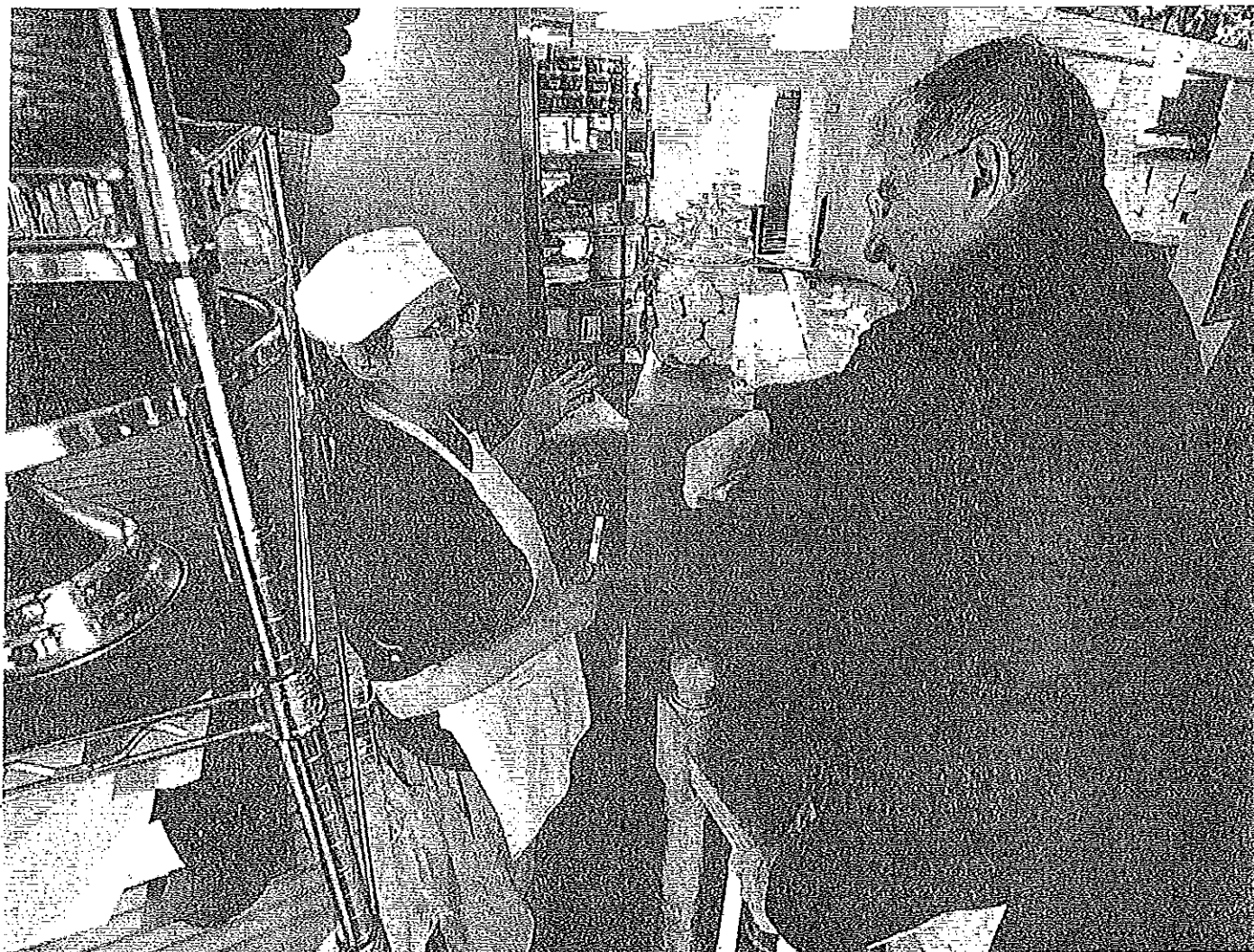
Gov. Paul LePage grabs a pen while working on his third State of the State address in his office in Augusta in January. With him are, from left, Director of Communications Peter Steele, Press Secretary Adrienne Bennett and Chief of Staff John McGough. Kennebec Journal File Photo

ELECTION 2014

Governor's Race



Lizzy Reinholt, communications director for Democrat Mike Michaud, and volunteers work at the headquarters on Commercial Street in Portland on Wednesday. The campaign has been relatively quiet. John Ewing/Staff Photographer



Independent Elliot Cutler talks with Irene Lim, owner of Fernleaf Bakery in Saco, on Wednesday. Cutler has been campaigning as though the election were weeks away, a political necessity for lack of a ready-made platform. John Patriquin/Staff Photographer

The governor has taken things a step further by enlisting his department heads – from health and human services to labor to education – to hit the airwaves and write newspaper columns in support of the governor's policies, even in the face of criticism.

On the same day the Legislature's oversight committee ordered an investigation into her department's troubled child day care division, DHHS Commissioner Mary Mayhew was on the radio cautioning against expanding Medicaid, also known as MaineCare. A day earlier, the governor had a half-dozen Cabinet members testify about how expanding MaineCare would hurt their departments. They hammered home one of LePage's biggest campaign messages and the governor wasn't even in the room.

The 2014 race for governor is fully underway.

"(LePage) has the bully pulpit," said Lance Dutson, a veteran of several Maine campaigns, including the 2012 U.S. Senate race, in which he worked for Republican Charlie Summers. "That's a campaign tool the challengers don't have. He gets to decide the issues."

Those challengers – Democrat Mike Michaud, a six-term congressman from Maine's 2nd District, and Elliot Cutler, an independent who lost narrowly to LePage in the 2010 election – have been largely forced to react.

Michaud, like LePage, has the advantage of holding an elective office that can keep him in the news, although the workings of Congress do not always have practical applications for Maine voters.

Michaud's campaign has been relatively quiet – the release of a major economic plan last month was his first policy salvo – but it has raised the most money and has been successful in courting endorsements from progressive groups that hold sway with members.

Cutler, on the other hand, has been campaigning as though the election were weeks away. In the span of less than 10 days last month, he was in Bangor talking to the women's forum of the local chamber of commerce, in Bar Harbor touring The Jackson Laboratory, one of the region's biggest employers, and then back in Kittery, the state's southernmost point, hosting a casual evening meet-and-greet.

Cutler's strategy is not only a sharp contrast with that of his opponents – it is also a political necessity. He doesn't have a ready-made platform.

While the fight for message rages across front pages and on television screens, behind the scenes all three campaigns are feverishly raising money and recruiting the volunteers needed for effective field operations.

"The race is going to attract more attention from more people earlier than usual," University of Maine political scientist Mark Brewer said. "I think you're really going to see the campaigns try to sharpen their message and settle on the themes."

MONEY AND MACHINE

Michaud's campaign headquarters on Commercial Street in Portland is like the campaign itself at this stage: tidy.

The main office is wide open and has desks set up for volunteers, with three separate offices for higher-ranking staff. The only real sign that it's a campaign office is a Michaud 2014 banner near the entrance.

Cutler's Portland office, on Milk Street in the Old Port, is similar.

Volunteers spend time stuffing envelopes and answering phones in the main area, while paid staff occupy separate offices where whiteboards hint at talking points and strategy.

LePage's campaign doesn't have an office yet. The number for the campaign, according to campaign finance reports, is 287-3531, which rings at the State House.

Brent Littlefield, LePage's senior campaign adviser, said the governor is more focused on governing than running for reelection at the moment, but the campaign machine is still actively fundraising and organizing volunteers.

Michaud has the early lead in the money race.

As of Dec. 31, the Democrat had raised about \$1 million and spent just under \$400,000. Cutler had raised \$945,000 – which included \$250,000 loaned from the candidate – and spent more than \$650,000. LePage has raised the least – about \$720,000 – but has spent the least as well, only about \$150,000.

Dutson called fundraising the "great equalizer." He said the temptation exists for the campaigns to hold on to their money since there are no primaries and save it for expensive advertising later on when more people are paying attention. But spending now can affect future fundraising.

"It's a sign that a campaign is in motion," Dutson said.

Just as important as money, but less visible, is building a strong field operation.

"Campaigns are harder than people think," said Michael Cuzzi, a veteran Democratic political operative who helped

run President Obama's New Hampshire campaign in 2008. "It's a grind and it's not always evident if you're making progress, but you need to do all that early work to be successful."

Dutson agreed that the field operation is crucial, especially in close races.

"In the legislative races (in 2012) Republicans got pummeled by absentee ballots and strong field operations by the Democrats," he said.

The Maine Democratic Party plans to use that same strong field game this time. It has more than 20 paid staff members canvassing the state already. The Maine Republican Party will try to match that strategy, particularly with its new effort called #GEN207 to attract younger voters.

While the two major parties work hard to help elect their candidates, Cutler does not have that built-in operational support. His campaign spokeswoman, Crystal Canney, acknowledged as much but said it has advantages, too.

"It's a huge freedom not to be tied to a political party," she said.

The Cutler campaign also took a hit about a month ago when its field director, Brandon Maheu, abruptly resigned. Canney said the campaign still has two full-time field operators, two paid interns, a number of volunteers and a part-time field expert who will join the campaign full time when the legislative session ends.

Cutler did not have a strong field operation in 2010. If he had, some say that could have put him over the edge.

THE FIGHT FOR MESSAGE

LePage has set the tone for the campaign by talking often about the economy and, more specifically, about Medicaid expansion and welfare abuse.

He has laid claim to those issues. Whether he softens his tone on the campaign trail remains to be seen, but he's likely energizing his Republican base.

"I'd like to see Michaud talk about welfare reform or charter schools," Cuzzi said. "LePage doesn't have to own those issues."

Michaud recently rolled out a 33-page blueprint for Maine's economy that he says will put the state on a strong path going forward. The plan featured a number of specific ideas, including offering University of Maine System students a free sophomore year of tuition, but both LePage and Cutler have said that all Michaud's plan does is increase spending.

Cutler has written a book that is available on his website but has not yet announced specific policy initiatives. The most important thing for him at this stage, Canney said, is "putting him in the community where he can be seen and heard. He has amazing ideas and proposals to move the state forward."

Still, Cutler has to fight harder to be heard.

As Michaud has gobbled up early endorsements from traditional progressive groups, such as EqualityMaine and the League of Conservation Voters, Cutler has gone on the offensive by saying he was never given a fair chance to earn those endorsements.

Cuzzi said those endorsements have built momentum for Michaud, but he cautioned that it could create the dynamic that Michaud is beholden to liberal special interests.

"I think left to his own devices, (Michaud) is more independent, but how much will he be willing to move to the middle?" Cuzzi said.

Cutler also has been pushing Michaud and LePage to debate. He has the most to gain by drawing contrasts between himself and the major party candidates.

But LePage and Michaud have more to lose and will almost certainly delay debates as long as possible, Cuzzi and Dutson agreed.

Although the incumbent governor has had a polarizing influence, often generating passionate support or opposition, Dutson contends that Michaud and Cutler are going to need to do more than persuade voters to reject LePage.

He also foresees a race in which the battle to control messages about policies evolves into a more personal decision.

"When you have a third candidate in the middle of two opposites, that's when voters start to look at personality," Dutson said.

Eric Russell can be contacted at 791-6344 or at:

erussell@pressherald.com

Twitter: @PPHEricRussell

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Michaud Stands with Liberal Politicians to Block Relief for Energy Costs



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Michaud Stands with Liberal Politicians to Block Relief for Energy Costs

October 1, 2014

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014
Contact: Adrienne Bennett, Press Secretary, 207-287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Paul R. LePage sent a letter today to Congressman Michael Michaud, expressing concern for the Congressman's defense of the slow, bureaucratic process that delays construction of natural gas pipelines while Maine and the region are facing skyrocketing electricity prices.

Governor LePage sent a letter today about Congressman Michaud's response to this energy crisis:

"Unfortunately, it illustrates a startling lack of awareness of the severity of the energy crisis in New England. Prices are skyrocketing, and jobs are threatened," the Governor stated. "We need additional natural gas capacity in our region to bring prices down and keep businesses open. The existing bureaucratic process that you praise may work for those who oppose natural gas and lower prices, but it will not give relief to Maine soon enough. We need action now."

Congressman Michaud has chosen to stand with out-of-state liberal politicians and activists, rather than doing what's best for Mainers.

"I encourage you to reach out to energy-intensive manufacturers and saw mills, as well as the pipeline companies looking to serve our region, and ask whether the 'Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act' would be useful in helping their businesses," the Governor stated. "Getting these projects permitted would be very beneficial by creating jobs for Mainers and improving our economy."

"Rather than following what Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) or a Massachusetts governor thinks about natural gas permitting, I would suggest that you talk to some businesses right here Maine businesses about their burdensome electric bills. Their opinion is what really matters."

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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

October 1, 2014

The Honorable Michael Michaud
Member of Congress
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud,

Thank you for your response dated September 29, 2014, regarding natural gas infrastructure.

Unfortunately, it illustrates a startling lack of awareness of the severity of the energy crisis in New England. Prices are skyrocketing, and jobs are threatened. We need additional natural gas capacity in our region to bring prices down and keep businesses open. The existing bureaucratic process that you praise may work for those who oppose natural gas and lower prices, but it will not give relief to Maine soon enough. We need action now.

This is not a moment for additional study. The Governor of Massachusetts wants to study the issue more, and you want to make sure that federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency can take their time to do their own "analysis." This is the type of thinking that is holding back our country. Ninety days is enough time to figure out if a massively important infrastructure project—which will save billions for our region—can move forward. Without these projects, we will continue burning oil to keep the lights on, which is both expensive and harmful to our environment.

All levels of New England's elected officials should be moving these projects forward as expeditiously as possible. The Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) testified to the severity of the problem before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power on stating that New England's pipelines are "very constrained." That was last year. Prices are now anticipated to spike to historic levels. There are times when our country must move forward with critical infrastructure and the federal bureaucracy must respond. That is exactly what the Natural Gas Permitting Reform Act (H.R. 1900) would accomplish by setting deadlines for bureaucrats.

You expressed concern that the Natural Gas Act now allows FERC to make a determination that a proposed interstate pipeline is "in the public convenience and necessity" and provide this infrastructure to be built with the use of eminent domain. Again, this is in existing law. The Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act (H.R. 1900) does not alter this authority. Instead, the legislation expedites the permitting process for other federal agencies to allow FERC to do its work and move these projects forward.

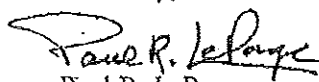


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I encourage you to reach out to energy-intensive manufacturers and saw mills, as well as the pipeline companies looking to serve our region, and ask whether the "Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act" would be useful in helping their businesses. Getting these projects permitted would be very beneficial by creating jobs for Mainers and improving our economy.

Rather than following what Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) or the Massachusetts governor thinks about natural gas permitting, I would suggest that you talk to some businesses right here in Maine about their burdensome electric bills. Their opinion is what really matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul R. LePage". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and a cursive "LePage".

Paul R. LePage
Governor

Wayne, Jonathan

From: Mary-Erin Casale <mecasale@mainedems.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 2:49 PM
To: Wayne, Jonathan
Cc: Ben Grant; Kate Knox; Lavin, Paul
Subject: Additional Materials for 10/10/14 Ethics Meeting
Attachments: LePage Moxiefest.jpg

Jonathan -

Please find attached two additional pieces of information for consideration at tomorrow's meeting. These are additional examples of Governor LePage and improper and unreported use of state resources.
Thanks.

1. Please find attached a photo of Governor LePage using the state leased vehicle driving in the Moxie Fest parade on July 12, 2014 and displaying campaign paraphernalia on the vehicle.

2. I also wanted to make sure the Commission was aware of the latest email blast and radio address from the Office of the Governor. Today, the governor used his "Weekly Message" and official email to push a political attack used against Rep. Mike Michaud at this morning's gubernatorial forum at Thomas College. At the forum, Gov. LePage attacked Rep. Michaud for his experience working across the aisle. Within hours of leaving the debate, Gov. LePage sent out his "Weekly Message," now posted on the Maine.gov website, and used the exact same language as messaging as at the morning debate.

The link to the full text is available here: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEGOV/bulletins/d4af86>

Best,
Mary Erin Casale

0 Receive Updates 

Weekly Message: Who really reaches across the aisle in Augusta?



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To listen to the Governor's Weekly Message visit the [Office of the Governor](#) website.

Who really reaches across the aisle in Augusta?

"Dirigo." It's our State motto, and it means "I lead."

Hello, this is Governor Paul LePage.

Being your Governor is a privilege and honor. As the CEO of our great State I have led, but only with the help of a great team.

We get things done, like paying Maine's hospitals and lowering your taxes. We have cracked down on welfare fraud, and we are fixing the broken system by implementing real welfare reform.

We improved the State's credit rating, added millions to the Rainy Day Fund and cut government waste.

Perhaps the most important action we have taken is helping our seniors by finding money for our nursing homes. When Democrat leadership failed to recognize this funding crisis, I took action.

Being your Governor means I put Mainers needs first. It means tough decisions must be made in order to move forward.

Many liberals claim I do not work with Democrats to get things done in Augusta. However, this is a distortion of the facts. The numbers tell a different story.

Unfortunately, when liberals talk about how uncooperative I am, they don't mention the more than 1,600 bills that went into law during these four years. Instead, they focus on the negative.

The truth is, I do let common-sense laws go into effect, and I do work with our legislature to get things done.

In 2012 when the Democrats took over the Legislature, more than 700 bills were passed and went into law. It was 724 total and Democrats sponsored sixty-seven percent of those bills.

On the other hand, I submitted 50 governor's bills. The legislature killed 27 of them, and one was modified so much by the time it reached my desk, I vetoed it.

The Democratic-led legislature killed more than 50 percent of my bills, but I only vetoed about 10 percent of the legislature's bills. That's fifty percent to my ten percent, and they say working with me is hard.

When I veto a bill, there is good reason and there are what I like to call three veto buckets:

- 1) Unfunded mandates. This is the Legislature's way of not paying for something and forcing Maine taxpayers to pick up the tab;
- 2) Tax increases. Taxes are never an option until wasteful government spending is gone. We aren't there yet; and
- 3) Resolves, code name for "I don't want to make a tough decision so let's study it". This is the kind of bill lawmakers put up when they don't want to make tough decisions.

Philosopher William James once said, "When you have to make a choice and you don't make it, that itself is a choice."

Sometimes making a decision isn't easy, but it doesn't mean it is wrong. We all must be able to work together, but someone also has to be willing to lead and make difficult decisions. Together, our administration will continue to lead the way – one decision at a time to move Maine in the right direction.

Thank you for listening.

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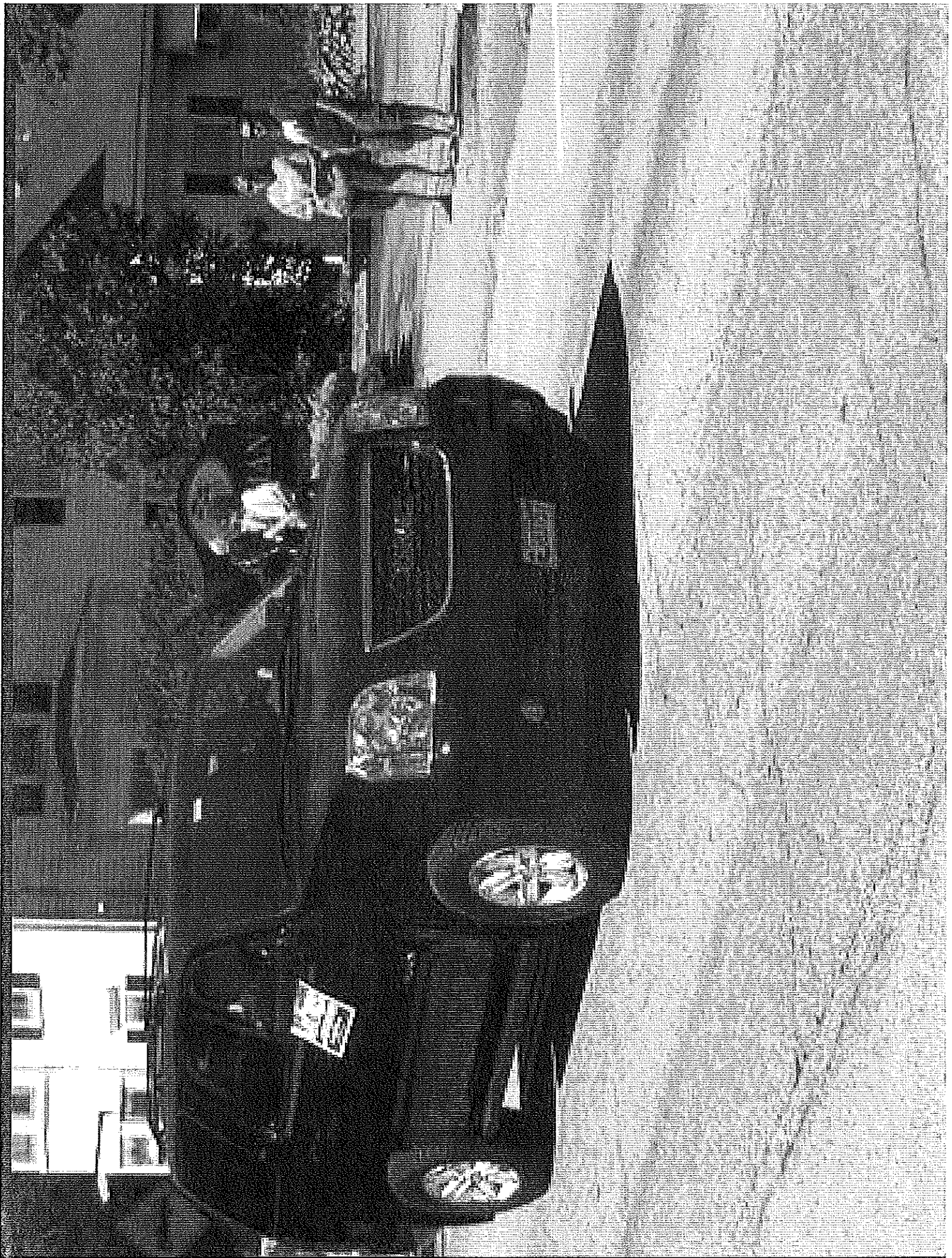
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AUG 25 2011

Maine Ethics Commission

Original
8/25/2011

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333

Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine

Website: www.maine.gov/ethics

Phone: 207-287-4179

Fax: 207-287-6775

2014 CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Notice: Changes to registration information must be filed within 10 days in writing or by e-mail to the Commission.

Is this an amendment? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1. CANDIDATE INFORMATION		
Are you running as a (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Clean Election Act candidate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> privately financed candidate		
Title <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable	Party affiliation REPUBLICAN	Office sought GOVERNOR
Name: First PAUL	MI or Middle Name R.	Last LE PAGE
Mailing address		District or County STATE OF MAINE
City, zip code		Home Phone
E-mail	Fax	Cell Phone
		Work Phone

2. TREASURER INFORMATION		
Name: First Richard	MI or Middle Name M.	Last SWANSON, JR
Mailing address 182 Mc GARTH Pond Road		Phone (home) 207-465-8345
City, zip code BAYLAND, ME 04963	E-mail RICK@RICKSWANSON.BE	Phone (work) 207-624-6203
		Fax

DESIGNATION OF TREASURER: A candidate for office must appoint a treasurer no later than 10 days after becoming a candidate, and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations. A MCEA CANDIDATE MAY NOT SERVE AS TREASURER. No later than 10 days after appointing a treasurer, the candidate must register with the Commission the name and address of the candidate and treasurer. The treasurer is responsible for maintaining campaign records and for filing reports. (21-A MRSA §§ 1013-A and 1125(12-A))

2A. DEPUTY TREASURER INFORMATION		
Name: First	MI or Middle Name	Last
Mailing address		Phone (home)
		Phone (work)
City, zip code		E-mail

DESIGNATION OF DEPUTY TREASURER (optional): The candidate may appoint a deputy treasurer and notify the Commission no later than 10 days after the appointment. A MCEA CANDIDATE MAY NOT SERVE AS DEPUTY TREASURER. The deputy, when acting in the absence of the treasurer, has the same powers and responsibilities as the treasurer. (21-A MRSA § 1013-A (1)(A)(1))

3. AUTHORIZED AGENT INFORMATION		
Name	Phone	Email
Name	Phone	Email

DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED AGENT (optional): Please use this section to designate individuals, other than the treasurer and deputy treasurer, authorized to file reports on your behalf.

4. POLITICAL COMMITTEE INFORMATION	
Name <i>THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT GOVERNOR PAUL LE PAGE</i>	Phone <i>207-465-8345</i>
Address of campaign headquarters <i>P.O. Box 1788</i>	City, zip code <i>WILKINSONVILLE, ME 04903</i>

DESIGNATION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE (optional): The candidate may form a political or campaign committee. Within 10 days of forming the committee and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, the candidate must:

- appoint a treasurer (the candidate may have only one treasurer who is listed in Section 2) and
- register the committee and its officers, if any are appointed, with the Commission. (21-A MRSA § 1013-A (1) (B))

Committee Officers (use additional pages, if necessary):

Name	Title	Phone
Mailing address	City, zip code	E-mail
Name	Title	Phone
Mailing address	City, zip code	E-mail

5. CERTIFICATION	
I, <u>PAUL R. LE PAGE</u> , certify that the information in this registration is true, accurate and complete. (Print Candidate's Full Name)	
Signature of Candidate <u>Paul R. LePage</u>	Date <u>8-23-11</u>

6. FOR COUNTY CANDIDATES ONLY	
<p>REPORTING EXEMPTION REQUEST: A candidate for <u>county office</u> may request an exemption from the obligation to appoint a treasurer and file campaign finance reports if the candidate does not accept any cash or in-kind contributions or make any expenditures for his or her campaign. You cannot request a reporting exemption if you use your or your spouse's/domestic partner's personal funds to pay for your campaign expenses. To request an exemption, complete the statement below and sections 1 & 5, have the form notarized, and submit it to the Commission.</p> <p>STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A REPORTING EXEMPTION: I, the undersigned, swear or affirm that I will not accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated with my candidacy.</p> <p>Signature of county candidate _____ Date _____</p> <p>Subscribed and sworn (affirmed) to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.</p> <p>Signature of Notary/Attorney-at-law _____ My commission expires _____ (Seal is optional) (Date)</p> <p>REVOCATION NOTICE: The foregoing statement may be revoked. Prior to revocation, the candidate must appoint a treasurer. A revocation notice must be in the form of an amended registration which must be filed with the Commission no later than 10 days after the date the treasurer is appointed. The notice must be filed before contributions are accepted or expenditures made. A late revocation notice is subject to the same penalties applicable to late campaign finance reports.</p>	

Sworn Falsification is a Class D crime. (17-A MRSA § 453)



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
 Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
 Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
 Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
 Phone: 207-287-4179
 Fax: 207-287-6775

2014 REGISTRATION: CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE	
Paul R LePage 438 Main St Waterville, ME 04901 Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN Office Sought: Governor District or County: Financing Status: Privately Financed	Public: Fax: (207) 287-1034 Email: Paul.LePage@maine.gov
TREASURER	
Richard M Swanson 182 McGrath Pond Rd Oakland, ME 04963	Public: (207) 465-8345 Fax: (207) 465-8345 Email: rick@rickswanson.org
DEPUTY TREASURER	
POLITICAL COMMITTEE	
Committee to Re Elect Governor Paul LePage PO Box 1788 Waterville, ME 04901	Phone: (207) 465-8345
COMMITTEE OFFICERS	
CERTIFICATION	
I, Paul R LePage, certify that the information in this registration is true, accurate, and complete.	
SIGNATURE	Date: August 26, 2011

UNSWORN FALSIFICATION IS A CLASS D CRIME (17-A M.R.S.A. § 453).

Filed: 8/25/2011
 Last Modified: 8/25/2011
 Printed: 10/8/2014

Candidate Registration

Amendment
12/2/2011



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
Phone: 207-287-4179
Fax: 207-287-6775

2014 REGISTRATION: CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE	
Paul R LePage P.O. Box 1788 Waterville, ME 04901 Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN Office Sought: Governor District or County: Financing Status: Privately Financed	Public: (207) 287-3531 Fax: (207) 287-1034 Email: info@LePage2014.com
TREASURER	
Richard M Swanson P.O. Box 1788 Waterville, ME 04901	Public: (207) 465-8345 Fax: (207) 465-8345 Email: rick@rickswanson.org
DEPUTY TREASURER	
POLITICAL COMMITTEE	
Committee to Re Elect Governor Paul LePage PO Box 1788 Waterville, ME 04901	Phone: (207) 465-8345
COMMITTEE OFFICERS	
CERTIFICATION	
I, Paul R LePage, certify that the information in this registration is true, accurate, and complete.	
SIGNATURE	Date: December 02, 2011

UNSWORN FALSIFICATION IS A CLASS D CRIME (17-A M.R.S.A. § 453).

Filed: 12/2/2011
Last Modified: 12/2/2011
Printed: 10/8/2014

Candidate Registration

Amendment 8/10/2012



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
Phone: 207-287-4179
Fax: 207-287-6775

2014 REGISTRATION: CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE	
PAUL R LEPAGE P.O. BOX 1788 WATERVILLE, ME 04901 Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN Office Sought: GOVERNOR District or County: Financing Status: Privately Financed	Public: (207) 287-3531 Fax: (207) 287-1034 Email: INFO@LEPAGE2014.COM
TREASURER	
WILLIAM P LOGAN P.O. BOX 476 NEWPORT, ME 04953	Public: (207) 368-2828 Fax: Email: WLOGAN@ITMLAW.COM
DEPUTY TREASURER	
POLITICAL COMMITTEE	
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE PO BOX 1788 WATERVILLE, ME 04901	Phone: (207) 465-8345
COMMITTEE OFFICERS	
CERTIFICATION	
I, PAUL R LEPAGE, certify that the information in this registration is true, accurate, and complete.	
SIGNATURE	Date: August 10, 2012

UNSWORN FALSIFICATION IS A CLASS D CRIME (17-A M.R.S.A. § 453).

Filed: 8/10/2012
Last Modified: 3/4/2014
Printed: 10/8/2014

Candidate Registration

Amendment 3/4/2014



Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine
Website: www.maine.gov/ethics
Phone: 207-287-4179
Fax: 207-287-6775

2014 REGISTRATION: CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE	
HON. PAUL R LEPAGE P.O. BOX 1788 WATERVILLE, ME 04901 Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN Office Sought: GOVERNOR District or County: Financing Status: Privately Financed	Public: (207) 509-1566 Fax: Email: INFO@LEPAGE2014.COM
TREASURER	
WILLIAM P LOGAN P.O. BOX 476 NEWPORT, ME 04953	Public: (207) 368-2828 Fax: Email: WLOGAN@ITMLAW.COM
DEPUTY TREASURER	
POLITICAL COMMITTEE	
COMMITTEE TO RE ELECT GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE PO BOX 1788 WATERVILLE, ME 04901	Phone: (207) 509-1566
COMMITTEE OFFICERS	
CERTIFICATION	
I, HON. PAUL R LEPAGE, certify that the information in this registration is true, accurate, and complete.	
SIGNATURE	Date: March 04, 2014

UNSWORN FALSIFICATION IS A CLASS D CRIME (17-A M.R.S.A. § 453).

Filed: 3/4/2014
Last Modified: 7/7/2014
Printed: 10/8/2014

Candidate Registration



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

October 8, 2014

Joshua A. Tardy, Esq.
Irwin Tardy & Morris
P.O. Box 476
Newport, Maine 04953

Dear Mr. Tardy:

This letter is to convey the request for investigation by the Maine Democratic Party (MDP) alleging that the Committee to Re-Elect Governor Paul LePage received unreported campaign contributions and misused state resources.

Jurisdiction of the Commission

As you are aware, the Ethics Commission is the campaign finance agency for the State of Maine. Our office receives campaign finance reports from candidates and others disclosing financial activities undertaken to influence elections. We also administer the contribution limits for candidates.

The Ethics Commission does not have jurisdiction over the improper use of state equipment or employees for campaign purposes. The Maine Legislature has not authorized the Commission to administer or enforce 5 M.R.S.A. §§ 7 & 7056-A.

Relevant Maine Election Law

The term contribution is defined in Maine campaign finance law as a "gift ... of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office" (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1012(2)(A)(1)) The Commission's Rules define an in-kind contribution to mean the provision of goods or services without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and customary charge. (Chapter 1, Section 6(4)) Certain goods or services are excluded from the statutory definition of contribution, including the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the provider" (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1012(2)(B)(9))

Within the 28 days before an election, the Commission is required to meet within two business days of the filing of any complaint or request for investigation. (21-A M.R.S.A. § 1002(1))

Joshua A. Tardy, Esq.

Page 2

October 8, 2014

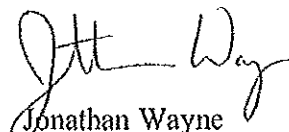
Request for Preliminary Response

The MDP's request is scheduled for a meeting of the Commission at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2014 at the Commission office at 45 Memorial Circle in Augusta, Maine. The Commission staff suggests that the LePage campaign be present to respond to the allegations in the request.

If possible, please submit a preliminary written response by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In the response, you may wish to describe any policy or understanding in the Office of the Governor restricting the use of equipment and employees for campaign purposes, and any reimbursement policy concerning use of state vehicles for campaign travel.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call me at 287-4179.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director

cc: Kate R. Knox, Esq.